

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 5 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein said at least one flexible bearing (1) has a variable first dimension along a first axis for allowing removal of said at least one flexible bearing from said at least one bearing recess when said first dimension is aligned with an opening width of said at least one bearing recess and (2) has a substantially constant second dimension along a second axis angularly offset relative to said first axis for preventing removal of said at least one flexible bearing from said at least one bearing recess when said second dimension is aligned with said opening width.
3. (Original) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 2 wherein said second axis is approximately normal to said first axis
4. (Original) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 2 wherein said at least one flexible bearing fixes the position of the pick module assembly along said second axis relative to the frame when said second dimension is aligned with said opening width.
5. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[The]]~~ sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim ~~4~~ for separating and sequentially feeding individual print media sheets from a stack thereof, comprising:
 - a frame having at least one bearing recess;
 - a print media tray carried by said frame;
 - a separator connected to said print media tray; and

a pick module assembly removably connected to said frame adjacent said print media tray, said pick module assembly including a pick roller adjacent said separator to form a nip and at least one flexible bearing removably received in said at least one bearing recess and removably connecting said pick module assembly to said frame, wherein said at least one bearing recess has an opening width that is smaller than a diameter of said at least one flexible bearing requiring a diameter of said at least one flexible bearing to be selectively variable along a first axis aligned with said opening width of said at least one bearing recess for insertion and removal of said at least one flexible bearing from said at least one bearing recess.

6. (Original) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 5 wherein said frame is constructed of a substantially rigid material that resists deformation when said at least one flexible bearing is inserted in or removed from said at least one bearing recess.

7. (Currently Amended) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 5 [[1]] wherein said pick module assembly includes:

a pick frame; and

a pick roller shaft rotatably mounted to said pick frame by said at least one flexible bearing and having said pick roller connected to said pick roller shaft, said pick roller rotatably fixed to said pick roller shaft when said pick roller shaft is rotated in a first direction and said pick roller rotatable relative to said pick roller shaft when said pick roller shaft is rotated in a second direction.

8. (Original) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 7 wherein said at least one flexible bearing includes:

a grooved portion received within a pick frame bearing recess to rotatably connect said at least one flexible bearing to said pick frame;

at least one walled portion axially disposed in said grooved portion to limit rotation of said at least one flexible bearing within said pick frame bearing recess; and

a pair of opposed axially extending portions having opposed radial portions adjacent said pick roller shaft that have a substantially fixed diameter thereacross and opposed

fingers extending from said radial portions and being radially spaced from said pick roller shaft that have a flexible, varying diameter thereacross.

9. (Original) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 7 wherein said pick module assembly further includes:

a nudger roller rotatably mounted to said pick frame adjacent said pick roller by a nudger shaft;

a pick roller gear rotatably fixed to said pick roller shaft;

a nudger roller gear rotatably fixed to said nudger roller shaft;

an idler gear rotatably mounted to said frame and engaged with said pick roller gear and said nudger roller gear so that rotation of said pick roller shaft causes rotation of said nudger roller; and

a driven gear mounted to said pick roller shaft for connection to an associated drive gear.

10. (Original) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 7 wherein said pick roller and said nudger roller each include frictional roller treads nonrotatably mounted thereto.

11. (Currently Amended) A [[The]] sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 4 wherein said frame includes for separating and sequentially feeding individual print media sheets from a stack thereof, comprising:

a frame having at least one bearing recess, a pick module recess and a pair of bearing recesses adjacent thereto;

a print media tray carried by said frame;

a separator connected to said print media tray, and

a pick module assembly removably connected to said frame adjacent said print media tray, said pick module assembly including a pick roller adjacent said separator to form a nip and at least one flexible bearing removably received in said at least one bearing recess and removably connecting said pick module assembly to said frame, said pick module assembly having a pair of flexible bearings received in said pair of bearing

recesses for removably mounting said pick module assembly in said pick module recess, [[and]] each of said pair of flexible bearings has a second dimension parallel with a respective opening width of said pair of bearing recesses so that said pick module assembly is locked to said frame until said pick module assembly is rotated so that a first dimension of each of said pair of flexible bearings is parallel with said respective opening width.

12. (Currently Amended) A [[The]] sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 1 further including for separating and sequentially feeding individual print media sheets from a stack thereof, comprising:

a frame having at least one bearing recess;

a print media tray carried by said frame;

a separator connected to said print media tray;

a pick module assembly removably connected to said frame adjacent said print media tray, said pick module assembly including a pick roller adjacent said separator to form a nip and at least one flexible bearing removably received in said at least one bearing recess and removably connecting said pick module assembly to said frame; and

an actuator assembly having (1) an arm pivotally mounted to said frame and including a fork that engages an extending member of said pick module assembly and (2) a biasing mechanism urging said arm toward an arm first position that holds said pick module assembly in an operative position, said arm movable toward a second position when a force is applied that overcomes said urging of said biasing mechanism wherein said fork disengages said extending member allowing said pick module assembly to be moved to a semi-engaged position for disconnection from said frame.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 12 wherein gravity moves said pick module assembly from said operative position to said semi-engaged position when said force is applied against said urging of said biasing means.

15. (Currently Amended) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 12 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein said separator is a retard roller assembly removably connected to said print media tray for replacement thereof, said retard roller assembly including a retard roller and a bias mechanism urging said retard roller into said pick roller.

16. (Original) The sheet feeder and separator assembly of claim 12 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein said separator is one of an active retard roller, a semi-active retard roller and a separator pad.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)